

# The Flyer

## Inside...

Alumna on Call for Middle East	2
Chicago Singer Comes to SSU	8
Deficit Causes Restrictions	10
Seagulls Send Wesley Packing	13

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## SSU Linked to Foundation Scandal

by Kelly Ramsey, staff writer

News from Frostburg State University has been circulating throughout Maryland institutions about its president, Dr. Herb F. Reinhard, using foundation money to endorse political candidates.

It was later discovered that other area schools also contributed to Governor William Donald Schaefer's reelection campaign in 1988 including Salisbury State University, the University of Maryland at College Park, Bowie State University and the University of Maryland Medical Facility Foundation, Inc.

Such contributions made through the foundation are prohibited by federal law, foundation by-laws and the University of Maryland System Policy. Schaefer's campaign returned the gifts.

Salisbury President Thomas E. Bellavance said the purchases were stopped in 1988 after his in-house counsel advised him that the contributions were inappropriate.

The foundation at Salisbury was formed about 13 years ago for the purpose of creating a body that would be independent of the state as a system to which private donors could contribute. "Many private donors have concerns about donating to a fund which is controlled by the state for fear that their money will either not be used as they had intended it to be used or be used to replace state funded operations," said Bellavance.

It was also formed to provide the

university with flexibility to provide it with a source of funds to support things that the state did not allow it to support.

Bellavance commented, "Our foundation has been, without question, a key factor in this University's success in becoming a highly credible and reputable institution of higher learning; simply because we have backing and the resources to pump in money where we need it at any given time."

SSU's foundation mostly supports operations such as the Perdue School and scholarship fund.

"What people forget is that to raise money it takes money," said Bellavance.

All together, Salisbury has contributed \$625 to candidates on three separate occasions. Bellavance said, "We did not realize that we had done anything wrong."

First in 1986, when Schaefer visited SSU and had a major event in the Ruth Powell Dining Hall, tickets were purchased with foundation money. "I thought it important for me to be there as president," said Bellavance.

In 1988 five tickets to "Reflections" in Baltimore which celebrated the State of Maryland and Governor Schaefer were purchased. Also in 1988, \$50 tickets were bought for an affair in Baltimore for Delegate Bryan who was chairman of the budget committee of the House of Delegates.

"As it turns out," Bellavance said, "The money [technically] goes to the candidate for his political office."

"The recent flap in the papers over the foundation stems from any number

of hidden agendas and why that came out and what it's all about is obvious that the actual questionable blunder for support of candidates is really a drop in the bucket of \$625 over the cost of four years for a foundation that is well worth \$10 million is hardly an intent to alter the course of history," said Bellavance.

"We now know what we did was wrong," said Bellavance. "That was a stupid mistake on our part. But we can not go through life forever being lawyers looking at things."

Bellavance said he believes that contributing to candidates is wrong and should not be done. "I think the law is extremely reasonable and appropriate that the foundation such as ours should not use money to support individual candidates," said Bellavance.

His comment on the situation with Frostburg's president is, "I feel that it's disgusting what is happening there."

"There is certainly a concern here that what our institution is doing is proper. I think it has been proper,"

## Financial Status Unknown

by Bonnie Schultz, staff writer

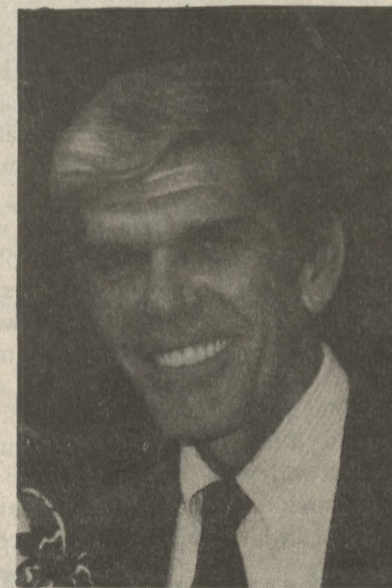
Final figures that will need to be cut from the University of Maryland System budget will not be known until mid-January, however, Governor William Donald Schaefer has proposed a \$38 million budget cut in public higher education. This will cause Salisbury State University to cut the operating budget by \$1.25 million this year.

Salisbury State University President Dr. Thomas E. Bellavance said that the concern is about the future. "Those cuts will continue," said Bellavance, and the University will "go into next year with a budget resulting from the cut of this year." Next year could result in an additional cut of \$500 thousand to \$750 thousand, said Bellavance.

"We (the administration) believe there will be more money next year," said Bellavance. He feels Fulton Hall will be able to open. He explains that the state of Maryland is "still solid and stable." The state is not in a crisis at this point.

Bellavance said that the cuts will focus on services that are not directly related to academics. He said the "priority is to maintain academic

commented Bellavance. "Personally I think that the whole thing should just be dropped."



DAVID LASHER, PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

President Dr. Thomas E. Bellavance

## Democrats Attend Convention

by Keith R. Byrne, reporter

The Salisbury State Young Democrats attended the Young Democrats of Maryland Annual Convention in Greenbelt, Maryland on Nov. 16 and 17.

The convention is a general assembly focused on the creation of the Young Democrats of Maryland's platform. SSU brought nine of its members and held five votes in the general assembly, which was the second largest number of votes held by any of the colleges and universities.

SSU Young Democrat President

James Ireton concentrated his efforts to get the Eastern Shore recognized on the platform. Among the issues he addressed were the rights of the farmers who live on "wetlands."

Ireton, in addition to being SSUYD's President and a member of the Worcester County Central Committee, was elected to be a member on the program board of the Young Democrats of Maryland.

Kevin Endres, SSU's second vice president, said, "The convention was a great success for us because we [SSU] made a real impact and improved the convention with our nine delegates."

integrity." SSU still will "produce top notch graduates," said Bellavance.

Bellavance said that the plans include stopping spending instead of raising tuition. Possible areas where spending may be cut include athletics, health services, publications and travel.

Bellavance explained that the budget cut has been felt in three particular areas. First, the university is required to preserve the campus appearance. With a budget cut, there will not be any "new" projects started, said Bellavance. He pointed out that the projects completed this year came from last year's budget. Second, the University has money on reserve each year that is not used until all students return in February. At this time, the money will be used in a crisis situation if need be. However, he explained that this money has already needed to be used. Third, the possible reduction of personnel. This would not mean cutting back on faculty. It would mean possibly reducing the number of contractual and part time employees.

Bellavance said that "we have worked long and hard to get where we are" as a university, and he is disappointed in having to make these changes.





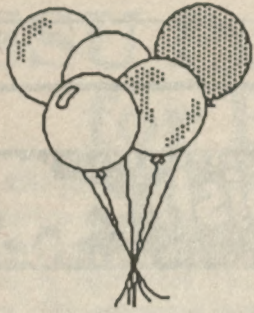




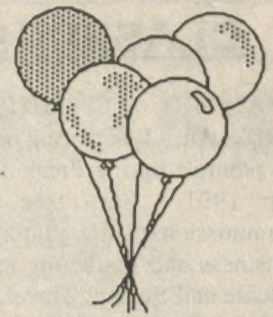








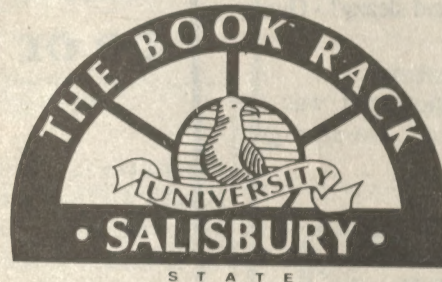
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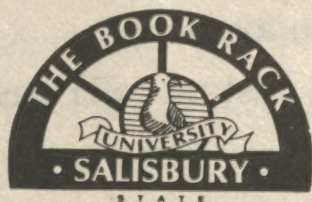
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